

staple in Canton and Massillon, some of the greatest high school football in the country, the Timken Company is going to close up shop, 1,300 jobs in this community. Howard Fineman just wrote a great article about Timken and its potential effect on the election, but 1,300 jobs in Ohio were bleeding. And the President and others want to say that the economy is turning around, and I cannot help but say, where? Where? Maybe if they have a little bit of stock, and the stock market is not even doing all that well. And gas prices are going up. I mean, where is it getting better? It is not. It is getting progressively worse. We have the financial albatross around our neck with the current war, and we are having a number of problems. So these are some things where we have to make education a national priority for us.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Are you better off now than you were 4 years ago? Mr. Speaker, I just want to, if we can, share just a few of our e-mails that we received, and I am going to start off. From Melanie B. of Maryland, and I will just leave it at that. She is a political and science and social worker major at the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus, will be 30 years old this year. And she goes on to say that "I have noticed over the past 2 years how tuition costs have gone up and continue to go up. Just over the past year, I have gotten really interested in the workings of the Congress. I tune into C-SPAN quite often now, and I was so happy to listen to the 30-Something Group talk Tuesday night. It almost brought me to tears."

□ 2330

It almost brought me to tears.

"I started my education late at 25. I am working full-time for an attorney to put myself through school. My parents were unable to help me. I live on my own, which leaves me no choice but to work full-time, or I wouldn't be able to support myself. It is going to take me 6 years to complete both degrees. I started at the community college and transferred.

"I received a scholarship from the National Honor Society, but lost the scholarship after the first semester. In order to keep the scholarship you are required to go to school full-time, 12 credit hours, and keep a GPA of 3.5. I was not able to do so, and just by dropping down to 9 credit hours I lost the little bit of money I had for access to school.

"I make too much money to qualify for a Pell Grant, which means that by the time I finish school, I will be in a mountain of debt. I hope to go to grad school, but right now I am not sure that that will be an option. I can't imagine the cost of grad school adding to my already outstanding debt."

That is a reality of what is going on out there. Community college, had a scholarship, have to work full-time, lost scholarship because she has to work to support herself, had to go to 9 hours, she lost it. She wants to continue her education, but cannot; not because it is not offered, but because she cannot afford it, and also because she will be in so much debt.

If you will read one.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I will read a couple here and start wrapping things up here. Alan T, a senior at Oklahoma State University, sent us an e-mail.

"I am spending over \$300 a semester for textbooks that have been used four or five times already by previous students. My best friend was unable to be the first in his family to graduate from a major university due to the fact that he was unable to pay for textbooks, parking permits and other student fees that are burdening students more and more," also probably a few parking tickets, if I remember college well. Those are also a cost that students must endure.

"I can either pay my bursar, or I can pay my rent. Next year, I won't buy my textbooks, so I can pay both."

The fact that we have people making this decision, it sounds eerily similar to the decision that a lot of our senior citizens have to make between food and prescription drugs.

Joseph Oliver from North Dakota, a 20-year-old chemical engineering student:

"Full disclosure, I do want to tell you that I am historically, even though I am only 20, a conservative voting citizen. The investigation into textbooks," for those of you at home, we have a bill that is going to investigate the high cost of textbooks, also provide a \$1,000 tax credit for you to be able to deduct that, or credit that, for your textbooks, up to \$1,000 a year, or your parents up to \$1,000 a year.

"The investigation into textbooks is long past due. I spent nearly \$600 for three classes of books, then was unable to sell any of them back because the new editions were released."

If anything gets you more upset in college, than you would drop hundreds of dollars for a textbook, and then you would go back at the end of the semester to get hopefully 10 or 20 bucks back, and they say, "We are not buying these back any more." I mean, that was ridiculous.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I still have some of my textbooks from college at home, because I was so upset, I was appalled by the fact they would not even give me even one-tenth of what I spent for them, and I did not even give them the privilege of giving me \$5 for the textbook. I kept the textbook, even though maybe Bush 41 was

the last President of the United States in it.

Go ahead. That is just a personal issue.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. He goes on to say, "That was the biggest unseen cost of college." He also goes on to talk about the variable interest rate for student loans. "I have a fixed rate of nearly 3.4 percent right now. If that were to change, the light at the end of the tunnel would get a little less bright. I work 18 hour days in the summer to afford the opportunity of continuing school. I get upset every year, because I get penalized for working hard, among other factors, when it comes to receiving financial aid."

I am going to wrap up here and just, again it is an honor to be here with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) to talk about these issues. I think it is important, if you are there, please send us your e-mail to us, find the rockthevote about voter suppression. But continue to send us these, because it is important for us to know exactly what your issues are.

I do want to take this opportunity, since we are not going to be here next week and this is my first term in Congress, to wish my mother a happy birthday. She is 60-years-old, so I wanted to wish her a happy birthday. Also my cousin, Phil Guerra who is also turning 60 this year.

I wanted to take this as an opportunity to wish them a happy birthday before we take off for our Memorial Day break. And just to say again, we got to keep plugging away. We got a long road here. But you establish what you stand for, you take it to these young students, these young kids, and I think you have an opportunity to change the way the country is run, and I think that is a great opportunity that we have here.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Congratulations to the young people in your family. They are still young, and they still have a lot to do. 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov, 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov.

I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), for this evening. I look forward to coming back in another 2 weeks to talk about other issues that are facing young Americans.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

**NOTICE**

***Incomplete record of House proceedings. Except for concluding business which follows, today's House proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.***

**EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,  
ETC.**

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8178. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Phosphomannose Isomerase and the Genetic Material Necessary for Its Production in All Plants; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-2004-0135; FRL-7358-9] received May 13, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8179. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's "Major" final rule — Control of Emissions of Air Pollution from Nonroad Diesel Engines and Fuel [OAR-2003-0012; FRL-7662-4] (RIN: 2060-AK27) received May 13, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8180. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA 280-0444; FRL-7657-3] received May 13, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8181. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule

— Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [R07-OAR-2004-MO-0001 FRL-7661-4] received May 13, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8182. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA269-0452; FRL-7659-8] received May 13, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8183. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Revisions to the 2005 ROP Plan for the Cecil County Portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton 1-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Reflect the Use of MOBILE6 [MD161-3110a; FRL-7648-3] received April 19, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8184. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Section 112(l) Authority for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Equivalency by Permit Provisions; National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from the Pulp and Paper Industry; Commonwealth of Virginia [VA001-1001a; FRL-7648-4] received April 19, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8185. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clean Air Act Reclassification, San Joaquin Valley Nonattainment Area; California; Ozone [CA 112-RECLAS, FRL-7648-8] received April 19, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8186. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Conditional Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Michigan; Oxides of Nitrogen Rules [MI84-02; FRL-7647-6] received April 19, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8187. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Interim Final Determination that State Has Corrected a Deficiency in the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality [AZ 126-0074b; FRL-7650-3] received April 19, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8188. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Environmental Performance Track Program [OA-2004-0001; FRL-7650-6] (RIN: 2090-AA13) received April 19, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.